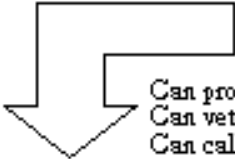



Separation of Powers

The Checks and Balances System

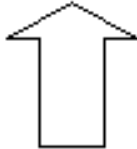
Executive Branch Enforces Laws



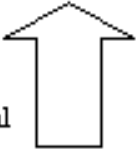
- Can propose laws
- Can veto laws
- Can call special sessions of Congress
- Can appeal directly to the public



- Can pardon people convicted of federal crimes
- Nominates officers of the U.S. government and federal judges




- Approves budget
- Can override presidential veto by two-thirds vote of both houses
- House can impeach president and other federal officials
- Senate tries all impeached officials
- Senate approves all presidential appointments and treaties




- Can declare executive actions unconstitutional

Legislative Branch Makes Laws



- Congress can propose constitutional amendments to counter Supreme Court rulings
- Sets the number, location, and jurisdiction of federal courts



- Can declare laws unconstitutional

Judicial Branch Interprets Laws

Proposal

Proposal by **two-thirds vote** of both houses of **Congress**

Used successfully **twenty-six** times

Used **once** to repeal Prohibition (Amdt. 21)

Proposal by **two-thirds vote** of **national convention** called by Congress on request of two-thirds of state legislatures

Ratification

Passage by **three-quarters** of **state legislatures**

Passage by **three-quarters** of **special state conventions**